

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY  
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT03006	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/010715	International filing date (day/month/year) 25 August 2003 (25.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 October 2002 (04.10.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC D21F 3/00, B29D 29/00		
Applicant YAMAUCHI CORPORATION		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>	
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand 19 January 2004 (19.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 19 October 2004 (19.10.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## Box No. I - Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☒ The international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:
- pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims:
- pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings:
- pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

## Claims 1-5 and 10-13

None of the documents describes that the internal diameter becomes smaller along the axial direction as it comes nearer to the center from either of the ends of an elastic sleeve, and so the subject matters of the above claims appear to be novel. They produce an effect of controlling the swelling of an elastic sleeve as it is used, therefore good running stability can be maintained for a long time. So, the subject matters appear to involve an inventive step.

## Claims 6-9

None of the documents describes that, in a method of manufacturing elastic sleeves for shoe press processing, "(1) a sleeve of elastic material unhardened or incompletely hardened is put on two rollers, (2) the said two rollers are moved farther from each other, (3) the said two rollers are bent so that they come closer at the center of each by utilizing the tension of the sleeve, and (4) the said sleeve is rolled in that state as it is completely hardened." So, the subject matters of the above claims appear to be novel.

An elastic sleeve manufactured thereby has a shape where the internal diameter becomes smaller along the axial direction as it comes nearer to the center from either of the ends, whereby the swelling of the elastic sleeve is controlled as it is used, therefore good running stability can be maintained for a long time. So, the subject matters of the above claims appear to involve an inventive step.

Document 1: US, 5132141, A

Document 2: JP, 3-294592, A

Document 3: JP, 6-266253, A

Document 4: JP, 8-67318, A